

# THE LRRP/RANGERS



## OF THE FIRST CAVALRY DIVISION DURING THE VIETNAM WAR

Number 2

### RANGER ROUNDUP IN THE WILD, WILD, WEST

The third reunion of the LRRP/Rangers of the First Cavalry Division was held in Killeen, Texas and the mission was a complete success. Unlike the missions of the late sixties and early seventies this mission involved a much larger team, better rations and sleeping arrangements, improved communications and considerably less danger. Like fine wine, the U.S. Army just gets better and better with the passage of time.

Team leader, Mike Echterling, provided the following intel at the debriefing. This material has been declassified and can be reviewed by any interested parties regardless of security clearances.

Terrain-Flat, hot, no canopy, several oasis-like areas though, that offered excellent cover for observation/listening posts.

Operations-Significant Activities-No signs of enemy activity to report. Many friendlies sighted, however. Team set up day day position at man-made facility in AO and monitored indigenous personnel in ten-gallon hats, strange leg coverings, and pointed-toed boots engaged in wild, and at times, violent activities with bovine and equine species known as rodeo. Team members unanimously opted to stay with jungle-rules volleyball rather than adopt this sport as a way to pass time between missions!

Night Halts-All team members maintained the watch until very late each evening--most unusual for LRRP/Rangers. No one seemed to want to go to sleep.

Observations and Conclusions-The larger than normal special team of LRRP/Rangers performed magnificently. The mission, a joyous reunion of the men of the best recon unit of the Vietnam War, was accomplished. It appears that the larger the team, the better.

Recommendations-All team members volunteer, and engage in locating and recruiting efforts to attract more team members, for our next mission in Columbus, Georgia-August 9-12, 1990.

New Little LRRP Arriving Soon

George and Sharon Richardson are expecting again! Way to go! The word is that this package will arrive in September and will be named Jeremy. Sure hope your medical intel is correct, George. If it turns out to be another LRRPette she'll never forgive you for tagging her with "Jeremy". Seriously, congratulations to you both from all of your Ranger friends. Also, thanks for the great cartoon, George.

### Team Members, Friends, and Family 1989 Reunion

- 1) Bill Gawthrop
- 2) James (Peewee) Barrett and Stephanie
- 3) Sam Dixon
- 4) Larry Crow and Betty Jean
- 5) David (Mac) and Patti McWilliams
- 6) Roman (Pineapple) Taijeron and Patricia and Rosie
- 7) Bob Gill
- 8) Auggie Garcia and Rita and 7 children
- 9) Doc Gilchrest
- 10) Rex McElroy and Julie and Erin and Seth
- 11) John (Onion) Hutter and daughter, Christine
- 12) Bill Hand
- 13) Al Voelkel and Karen and Charlie
- 14) Leo Corey and Carol
- 15) Howard Shute
- 16) Doug Matze
- 17) Dan Roberts and Bonnie
- 18) Stan Freeborne and Danita and Lindsay and Lisa
- 19) Bob Raab and Barb
- 20) Bill Abbott and Nancy
- 21) Chuck Windham and Sue
- 22) Jan Coates and Margarette and Paula and Martha
- 23) Alvino Deimes and Rosa and Nathan, Vino, and Omar
- 24) Rudy Torres and Inez and Cynthia
- 25) Terry Wanish and Shan
- 26) Annabell Griffis (Mother of Fred Griffis)
- 27) Ron Hall
- 28) Charles Burckhardt
- 29) Charlie Ochoa
- 30) Wiley Nobles and Laurie
- 31) Mike Brennan
- 32) Jack (Hank) Kindle and Dona
- 33) Roger Albertson and Roy (son) and Gerald (father)
- 34) George Paccereilli and Barbra
- 35) Mike Echterling

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### IF YOU MISSED IT!

The drawing for the SKS rifle, donated by George Paccarelli, was held and the winner was Mr. Denis Kutemeier. This raffle helped raise money to finance our operations. Another item will be raffled off next year. Bill Abbott, a true craftsman in the art of knife making, has generously donated a particularly fine combat knife for our 1990 reunion. Thanks, Bill.

The winners of two jackets, beautifully embroidered with our unit crest, were Sam Dixon and Bob Raab. These jackets were donated by Rex and Julie McElroy. Congratulations guys--Some people have all the luck!

### Company E, Company H, and The First Cav

The Organization Committee presented information about the status of our organization and our options with regard to reorganization, affiliation with other groups, etc.. It was decided by vote that we will remain with the First Cavalry Division Association and seek chapter status. Mike Brennan and the Organization Committee members are pursuing this.

### IMPORTANT WORDS FROM THE PAPER PUSHER

We are now starting our fourth year of locating our LRRP/Rangers. There have been 401 located at this time. Some have moved and forgotten to send us forwarding addresses. We just cannot afford to search a second time for someone when we have a good 400 to locate the first time. If you are in contact with one of these people please send us the address and phone for the roster and mailing list. Do not depend on them to do so.

We have some information to share with you and we ask for your help. We have most of the difficult tracing done on these people and need a few of you to put in some letters, phone calls and checking. Please help us out! You must understand that only three of do the great bulk of locating. For us to go through 400 names will take at least four years or longer. We'll try each newsletter to give you information that we have on someone so you all can help us. You do not have to do the initial contact with someone if you are uncomfortable doing this. Just send us the information and we'll make the contacts.

The sixteen people listed below are still in the Army. Please, those of you still in service, check these men out through your base locator computer. Some of these names may be slightly misspelled. SSNs are on the roster.

Daniel F. Alsteen  
Michael G. Doran  
James D. Dempsey  
Donald L. Keldson  
Gary L. White  
Jerry Ballantyne  
Jorge Otero-Colon  
Steven L. Tefft

Wade H. Green  
William S. Carrier, III  
John E. Denison  
Richard Wallace  
Clifford E. Easley  
Roy E. Bumgarner, Jr.  
David O. Mitchell  
Daniel Sedillo

On the next 23 men we have done the most difficult tracing and have addresses on them only 4-8 years old. We need you to check with neighbors, veterans groups, small town barber shops, postmasters, telephone operators, police, etc. Please send us their addresses and phone numbers

- 1) Charles Chenault-P.O. Box in Aylett, Virginia
- 2) Gary Anderson-P.O. Box in Coarsegold, California (or at #19)
- 3) Patrick A. Blewett-3121 Beeston Ave., Sacramento, CA
- 4) Robert Bobwicz-6267 Midnight Pass Rd., Sarasota, Florida
- 5) James E. Byrd-Box 49B, Rt. 65, Arapahoe, North Carolina
- 6) Dan R. Dick-126 N. Yale Ave., Columbus, Ohio
- 7) Cleofas G. Calderon-1110 E. 61st St., Odessa, Texas
- 8) Gregory T. Chavez-710 S. McKnight Rd., St. Paul, Minnesota
- 9) George W. Clay-304 Gillespie Rd., Apt B, Cleveland, Tennessee
- 10) Kevin Dwyer-2900 N.E. 17th Ave., Pompano Beach, Florida
- 11) Barry J. Dykeman-Box 2807, Sierra Vista, Arizona
- 12) Edward K. Fisher-1128 U Street, Rio Linda, California
- 13) William L. Foy-Chattanooga, Tennessee
- 14) Ruben Longaria-627 S. Record Ave., Los Angeles, California
- 15) Curtis R. Lovell-5236 Main, Apt. 23, Springfield, Oregon
- 16) Richard F. Yeargan-2752 Taft Dr., San Jose, California
- 17) Don Spaulding-P.O. Box, Pratt, West Virginia
- 18) John E. Adley-3945 N. 38th Ave., Birmingham, Alabama
- 19) Gary Anderson-P.O. Box, Oakhurst, California
- 20) James T. Wood-33 Woodland Dr., Budd Lake, New Jersey
- 21) Donald Gooding-7006 S.E. 84th St., Portland, Oregon
- 22) Stephen Laporte-127 King St., Franklin, Maine
- 23) Robert E. Malick-#18 Sea Girt Ave., Oceanport, New Jersey
- 24) John D. Floyd-3508-b or 35088 Curtis St., Bryan, Texas

Lastly, and very important, we must remind you not to give anyone information unless you have questioned them and made sure that they were from our unit. You all know the little facts to ask, or let Mike do this for you. Also, never believe anyone who uses Mike's name unless you check with him first. This happened and the person was given names and phone numbers by those whom this person fooled. This person sounded legit. If they do not have information, then there is a very good reason Mike did not give it to them. We get many calls and letters from people wanting on the roster that never served with the unit and maybe were never even in Nam. We must be careful. And so that you all know, we do not give families of our KIAs or deceased a roster. Our feeling is that we give you that option of calling them when, and if you are ready to do so. Please remember this. When a family is located Mike lets you know through the Saber.

Thank you for your cooperation.

The Paper Pusher  
Bonnie Echterling

## SALE OF THE CENTURY

A group picture was taken of the men at the reunion and, would you believe?--made into a 1990 calendar! Believe me, this is a one-of-a-kind calendar! They are laminated and are available from David and Patti McWilliams, P.O. Box 3, Dallastown, PA 17313. The cost is only \$5.00. This is destined to become a collector's item and you can have a lot of fun trying to identify the men in the picture.

Julie and Rex McElroy have about 20 of our sexy black baseball caps with our colorful crest. These hats are \$10 and readily identify the wearer as a truly unique individual with a highly developed sense of summer fashion. They can be ordered from Rex and Julie at 507 Friendly Drive, Marshalltown, IA 50158. One size fits all and you'll be out of uniform in Columbus without one!

Crest pins and decals are available from Bonnie Echterling for \$2.50 and \$1.00 respectively. Those are pretty good prices for a monopolist! Mike and Bonnie's address is 626 Lincoln, Lowell, Indiana 46356. Bonnie also has copies of the current roster for \$1.50.

## OFFICIAL ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP

As you probably know, we are constantly trying to raise funds to continue our efforts in locating veterans. Our expenses seem to always outdistance our revenues from raffles, donations, etc. In order to continue locating veterans, print rosters, mail newsletters, and organize reunions it was decided that membership dues are necessary. An annual membership of \$15.00 was established. In order to help us continue our mission please help by sending your dues to Mr. Augustine Garcia at 511 Vine, Euless, TX 76040. Also, please send us the following information along with your check.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

VETERAN \_\_\_\_\_ ASSOCIATE MEMBER \_\_\_\_\_

DATES SERVED WITH UNIT \_\_\_\_\_

DONATION: \$15.00 OTHER DONATIONS \_\_\_\_\_

(RECEIPT AVAILABLE ON REQUEST)

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION CLEARLY.

ALL MONIES USED TO HELP DEFRAY ORGANIZATIONAL COSTS.

